Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method of improving ~~water treatment composition for the long-term improvement of~~ the water quality of biological maintenance systems for the long term, comprising adding a water treatment composition to the systems, said composition comprising:

a) at least one easily or sparingly soluble Al^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, TiO^{2+} or ZrO^{2+} salt of an organic carboxylic acid;

b) at least one water-soluble N-free, biologically decomposable organic compound;

c) at least one soluble alkali metal salt of an organic carboxylic acid and

d) a Ca^{2+} or Mg^{2+} salt or a mixture of Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} salts of an organic carboxylic acid; and

e) trace elements and vitamins.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11 comprising:

a) an a salt selected from the group consisting of an acetate, formate, tartrate, citrate, and a mixture thereof;

b) at least one carboxylic acid, an alcohol, a sugar, or a mixture thereof;

c) an alkali metal salt of citric, acetic, lactic, tartaric, formic or malic acid;

d) a Ca^{2+} or Mg^{2+} salt or a mixture of Ca^{2+} and Mg^{2+} salts of organic carboxylic acids; and

e) trace elements and vitamins.

13. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein component a) further comprises an organic carboxylic acid.

14. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein component e) are water-soluble vitamins of the B series.

15. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein component a) comprises aluminum citrate, iron citrate or a mixture thereof.

16. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein component b) comprises acetic, citric, tartaric, lactic acid, glycerol, sorbitol, ethanol, a pentose, a hexose, a saccharose, or a mixture thereof.

17. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 16 wherein component b) is a combination of citric acid, tartaric acid and saccharose.

18. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein component c) is a sodium salt of citric or tartaric acid, or a mixture thereof.

19. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein component d) comprises magnesium citrate or tartrate, or a mixture thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 19, further comprising calcium citrate or tartrate, or a mixture thereof.

21. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11 wherein the trace elements are selected from the group consisting of iron, boric acid, bromide, iodide, lithium, tin, manganese, zinc, nickel, copper, vanadium, molybdenum, cobalt, and a mixture thereof.

22. (Currently Amended) The method ~~composition~~ according to claim 11, wherein the vitamins are selected from the group consisting of vitamin B1, B2, B6, B12, nicotinic acid amide, panthenol, biotin and a mixture thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) A water treatment composition for the long term improvement of the water quality of biological maintenance systems, comprising the following, based on the concentration in the maintenance system:

a) 0.5 - 50 mg of at least one easily or sparingly soluble Al^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, TiO^{2+} or ZrO^{2+} salt of an organic carboxylic acid;

b) 0.5 - 100 mg of one or more organic compounds selected from citric acid, saccharose, tartaric acid, and a mixture thereof;

c) 0.018 - 1.8 mmol of an alkali metal salt;

d) 0.0018 - 0.36 mmol of magnesium salt of an organic carboxylic acid; and

e) 1 - 100 µg iron;

0.5 - 50 µg boric acid;

0.1 - 100 µg bromide;

0.01 - 100 µg iodide;

1 - 200 ng lithium;

1 - 200 ng tin;

0.1 - 100 µg manganese;

0.1 - 100 µg zinc;

0.01 - 20 µg nickel;

0.01 - 20 µg copper;

1 - 500 ng vanadium;

1 - 500 ng molybdenum;

0.1 - 50 ng cobalt;

0.1 - 100 µg vitamin B1;

0.05 - 50 µg vitamin B2;

0.01 - 30 µg vitamin B6;

0.05 - 50 ng vitamin B12;

0.1 - 50 μg nicotinic acid amide;

0.1 - 100 μg panthenol; and

0.01 - 10 μg biotin.

24. (Currently Amended) A water treatment composition for the long term improvement of the water quality of biological maintenance systems, comprising the following, based on the concentration in the maintenance system:

a) 0.5 - 10 mg of at least one easily or sparingly soluble Al^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, TiO^{2+} or ZrO^{2+} salt of an organic carboxylic acid;

b) 0.5 - 50 mg of one or more organic compounds selected from citric acid, saccharose, tartaric acid, and a mixture thereof;

c) 0.036 - 0.36 mmol of an alkali metal salt;

d) 0.018 - 0.18 mmol of magnesium salt of an organic carboxylic acid; and

e) 2 - 20 μg iron;

0.5 - 10 μg boric acid;

0.1 - 5 μg bromide;

0.1 - 10 μg iodide;

5 - 100 ng lithium;

5 - 100 ng tin;

0.2 - 20 μg manganese;

0.1 - 10 μg zinc;

0.05 - 5 μg nickel;

0.05 - 5 μg copper;

5 - 100 ng vanadium;

5 - 100 ng molybdenum;

0.5 - 20 ng cobalt;

0.1 - 50 μg vitamin B1;

0.05 - 10 μg vitamin B2;

0.05 - 10 μg vitamin B6;

0.1 - 10 ng vitamin B12;

0.1 - 20 μg nicotinic acid amide;

0.1 - 10 μg panthenol; and

0.01 - 1 μg biotin.

25. (New) A water treatment composition for the long-term improvement of the water quality of biological maintenance systems, comprising:

a) at least one easily or sparingly soluble Al^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, TiO^{2+} or ZrO^{2+} salt of an organic carboxylic acid;

b) a combination of citric acid, tartaric acid and saccharose;

c) at least one soluble alkali metal salt;

d) magnesium citrate or tartrate, or a mixture thereof, and

e) trace elements and vitamins.

26. (New) A water treatment composition for the long term improvement of the water quality of biological maintenance systems, comprising the following, based on the concentration in the maintenance system:

a) 0.5 - 50 mg of at least one easily or sparingly soluble Al^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, TiO^{2+} or ZrO^{2+} salt of an organic carboxylic acid;

b) 0.5 - 100 mg of one or more organic compounds selected from citric acid, saccharose, tartaric acid, and a mixture thereof;

c) 0.018 - 1.8 mmol of an alkali metal salt;

d) 0.0018 - 0.36 mmol of a calcium or magnesium salt of an organic carboxylic acid, or a mixture thereof; and

e) trace elements and vitamins.

27. (New) A water treatment composition for the long term improvement of the water quality of biological maintenance systems, comprising the following, based on the concentration in the maintenance system:

a) 0.5 - 50 mg of at least one easily or sparingly soluble Al^{3+}, Fe^{3+}, TiO^{2+} or ZrO^{2+} salt of an organic carboxylic acid;

b) 0.5 - 100 mg of one or more organic compounds selected from citric acid, saccharose, tartaric acid, and a mixture thereof;

c) 0.018 - 1.8 mmol of an alkali metal salt;

d) 0.0018 - 0.36 mmol of a magnesium salt of an organic carboxylic acid, or a mixture thereof; and

f) trace elements and vitamins.